



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/821,633

04/09/2004

Zia Yassinzadeh

021872-001900US

9024

20350

7590

03/31/2008

TOWNSEND AND TOWNSEND AND CREW, LLP

TWO EMBARCADERO CENTER

EIGHTH FLOOR

SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-3834

EXAMINER

GETTMAN, CHRISTINA DANIELLE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3734

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

03/31/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/821,633

Applicant(s)

YASSINZADEH, ZIA

Examiner

CHRISTINA D. GETTMAN

Art Unit

3734

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 January 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11, 14 and 17-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11, 14, 17-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/S5108)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/15/2007.

DETAILED ACTION

Examiner has acknowledged that claims 12-13, 15-16, and 22-67 have been cancelled.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on January 18, 2008, has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "the expansible member" in lines 19-20. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is believed by the Examiner that the expansible member should be the expansible element, as recited earlier in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-2, 5-6, 8, 10-11, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Zucker (U.S. Patent No. 2003/0055454). Zucker discloses the invention as claimed including a method for hemostasis of a puncture site (see Fig. 3A-3L) including providing a locating member (ref. 128) having an expansible member (ref. 124) on its distal end, a compression member (ref. 102) with an expansible element (ref. 150) on its distal end, inserting the locating member (Fig. 3B) through a sheath (ref. 304) to within a vessel, expanding the expansible member and drawing the locating member proximally (Fig. 3C-3F), removing the sheath from the tissue tract (Fig. 3G), advancing the compression member over the locating member (see ref. 102 over ref. 128) and expanding the expansible element on the other side of the puncture tract from the expansible member (Fig. 3G), the expansible element being engageable with subcutaneous tissue surrounding the vessel wall (Fig. 3H), the expansible element being a balloon (ref. 150), inflating a distal face of the balloon at an angle to the compression member, unfolding concentric folds of the balloon (see the folds of ref. 150 from Fig. 3F to Fig. 3G), inflating the balloon to a deployed configuration having a concave distal end, and contracting and withdrawing the locating member while the compression member remains in place (Fig. 3H-3I).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3-4, 7, 9, 14, and 18-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zucker. Zucker do not disclose the predetermined distance, expanding the balloon to a conical configuration, the distal end of the balloon having a concave distal end, the expansible member deployed diameter, imaging the element during positioning, delivering energy to the puncture site, delivering a clot promoting agent or an anti-infection agent to the puncture site, or instructions on how to use the device. It would have been an obvious design choice to have modified the balloon of Zucker to have a conical shape and to have a distal concave end. Both of these design alterations are well-known in the art and would, therefore, be obvious to modify the balloon of Zucker to meet the design limitations. It would also be obvious to modify the predetermined depth of the expandable balloon in the tissue tract as well as to modify the expansible members diameter in order to fit the correct size puncture and provide enough pressure to cause hemostasis to occur. It is well-known in the art to image an insertion area in order to determine the exact location of where the device is moving through the tissue. It is also well-known in the art to use some form of energy for either imaging purposes or to seal the puncture site. It is further well-known in the art to use both clot promoting agents and anti-infection agents to help seal a wound/puncture in a

Art Unit: 3734

vessel. It would be obvious to provide instructions on how to use the device of Zucker in order to allow a user to properly insert it and use it within and around a vessel.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Barak (U.S. Patent No. 5,728,134) disclose using two expansible members to seal a puncture in a vessel.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHRISTINA D. GETTMAN whose telephone number is (571)272-3128. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 6:45 am to 4:30 pm (off every other Friday).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Todd Manahan can be reached on 571-272-4713. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3734

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Kevin T. Truong/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3734

/Christina D Gettman/
Examiner, Art Unit 3734
571-272-3128